

**National Science Foundation
Office of International Science and Engineering**

**RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS
from the Committee of Visitors Report
July 12-14, 2011**

COV Recommendation #1: Include strengths and weaknesses under each merit criteria in the panel summary.

OISE Response to #1: OISE will continue to emphasize to staff and panelists the importance of including both strengths and weaknesses under each merit review criteria in the panel summary.

COV Recommendation #2: Ensure that the panel summaries should reflect not only the reviews but also the discussion and development of the final consensus.

OISE Response to #2: OISE staff will emphasize in instructions to proposal review panelists that summaries should include discussion and development of the final recommendation. EAPSI plans to have a new Panel Summary Template which will include a section summarizing the final recommendations for FY 2012 competition.

COV Recommendation #3: The COV suggests standardizing the process so that program award statistics information is consistently provided to PIs.

OISE Response to #3: OISE will give special attention to providing Context Statements to PIs in a consistent manner.

COV Recommendation #4: Further increase OISE officers' travel budgets to enable the core functions of establishing, building and maintaining international relationships for the entire foundation.

OISE Response to #4: OISE management will continue to review the priority of travel budgets within the context of overall funding requirements.

COV Recommendation #5: OISE should further engage other NSF directorates early on in their programmatic activities.

OISE Response to #5: OISE staff work with other directorates and offices on a regular basis to identify program and project opportunities. OISE is making use of details to research directorates for OISE staff and bringing detailees from the research directorates to OISE in order to share best practices and strengthen networking throughout the agency. A newly reconstituted International Coordinating Committee comprised of senior staff from across the Foundation provides another opportunity for engaging NSF colleagues early in the portfolio development process.

COV Recommendation #6: Develop a metric through which OISE staff record their intangible, non-proposal contributions, for staff performance review as well as documentation of OISE's significant contribution to the overall goals of the NSF.

OISE Response to #6: OISE agrees that staff performance of non-proposal activities should be documented and recognized on a regular basis. The diverse nature of these activities and their contribution to NSF goals requires attention on an individual basis. OISE supervisors will incorporate these activities into periodic performance discussions.

COV Recommendation #7: The portfolio of OISE programs should be evaluated by the Advisory Committee for International Programs with the benefit of the ongoing evaluations of three of the core programs (IRFP, EAPSI, PIRE).

OISE Response to #7: An evaluation of the IRFP and EAPSI programs is being conducted by an independent contractor and a report is due in FY 2012. An evaluation of the PIRE program is being planned and is expected to be completed in FY 2013.

The results of program evaluations and potential actions in the context of the overall OISE portfolio will be discussed with at future meetings of the NSF Advisory Committee for International Science and Engineering (AC-ISE).

COV Recommendation #8: OISE should further develop the capacity to nurture and catalyze inter-Agency partnerships as well as partnerships with non-governmental organizations to support its core missions.

OISE Response to #8: OISE will continue to work in collaboration with NSF units to expand partnerships beyond the Foundation to support initiatives that address core mission objectives. For example, the PIRE4 competition in FY 2012 will focus exclusively on the NSF SEES priority area, and includes partnerships with a variety of domestic and

foreign agencies: UK Research Councils (RC-UK), Russian Federation Ministry of Education and Science (MES), Japan Agency for Science and Technology (JST), US AID, EPA, and Inter-American Institute for Global Change (IAI)].

COV Recommendation #9: Provide future COVs with additional documentation of all core activities including more detailed information on non-proposal activities, as well as access to an up-to-date strategic plan.

OISE Response to #9: OISE will expand its efforts to document progress toward achieving the diverse objectives in its portfolio, including non-proposal activities. A strategic plan for NSF international activities will be developed in coordination with the NSF strategic plan. These data and documents will be provided to the FY 2014 COV.
